

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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O R 161645Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8053

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0999

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS:PDIP PFOR EK

SUBJ: EQUATORIAL GUINEA ATMOSPHERICS

REFS: A) YAOUNDE 901 B) YAOUNDE 898

1. SUMMARY: CONVERSATION WITH UNDP REPRESENTATIVE, SPANISH AND FRENCH CHARGES, PILOT COMPANIE FORESTAL INDICATE THEIR BELIEF THAT WHOLE SCENARIO SANTIAGO LETTER AND PNG'ING COUNSUL MITHOEFER AND MYSELF MAY HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT FORE KNOWLEDGE PRESIDENT. CHARGE ALSO REPORT SEVERAL BIZARRE HAPPENINGS SINCE OUR DEPARTURE WHICH LEADS ME CONCLUDE THAT PERHAPS WE HAVE BEEN DONE A FAVOR "BY NO LONGER BEING INVOLVED" KAFKA LIKE EQUATORIAL GUINEAN EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ERIC ZEPTERBERG, UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE MALABO SAW ME MARCH 11 AND CONSUL MITHOEFER MARCH 11 AND 12. HE NOTED BIZARRE NATURE OF LETTER AND BELIEVED WHOLE THING MANUFACTURED AS HE CHARACTERIZED ACTING CHIEF PROTOCOL IN PRESIDENCY, SANTIAGO NOBIYA NCHAMA AS "CRAZY". HE THOUGHT LETTER WAS DESIGNED PROVOKE
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US AND THEN SANTIAGO WOULD BE ABLE MISREPRESENT SITUATION TO

PRESIDENT. HE EVEN SPECULATED THAT TELEGRAM SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN SENT BY LOWER LEVEL FUNCTIONARY. HE MENTIONED EITHER SANTIAGO OR FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL CHIEF AUGUSTIN NSIE NFUMU. AS PRIME SUSPECT.

3. MET DURING BATA TRIP WE HAD SPENT SOME TIME SPANISH AND FRENCH CHARGES I REQUESTED ZEPTEBERG TO BRIEF THEM ON SITUATION MARCH 15 THEY CAME TO DOUALA TO SEE CONSUL MITHOEFER AND I HAD OPPORTUNITY SPEAK SPANISH CHARGE PAULINO GONZALEZ CUROGEDO BY PHONE TO INFORM HIM DIRECTLY ON OUR REASONS SUSPENSION RELATIONS. GONZOLEZ REMAINED BATA UNTIL MARCH 9 VISITING PRINCIPAL SPANISH INTERESTS. HE SAID PRESIDENT MACIAS WENT AROUND TOWN NIGHT OF MARCH 8 IN LARGE PEGASO BUS STOPPING EVERY 100 YARDS OR SO TO BEAT-UP MILITARY AND MALITIA GUARDS SHOUTING; "YOU ARE ALL TRAITORS, NOT TO BE TRUSTED AND I AM ALL ALONE".

4. MARCH 9, GONZALEZ STOPPED BY ROAD BLOCK IN ATTEMPT REACH AIRPORT. HE TOLD IMPORTANT AMBASSADOR LOST IN BUSH AND REQUESTED SIGN NAME. THIS WOULD FIT IN WITH EBEBIYIN DELEGATE TELLING ME SAME MORNING THAT THEY HAD BEEN EXPECTING US PREVIOUS EVENING. THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT WE STAYING MONGONO AT PRESIDENTS REQUEST AND TOLD TATA THAT WE WERE MISSING.

5. GONZOLEZ SENT HIS BATA CONSUL MARIA PILAR RUIZ DE ZUAZU TO PRESIDENCY TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON. SHE SAW 10 CABINET MEMBERS SITTING AROUND TABLE UNDER ARMED GUARD. SHE WAS INFORMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT AND ALL OF THE MINISTERS WERE SUSPECTS. GONZOLES SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED MANUEL NSI MBA, LIFE MINISTER OF YOUTH; ANGEL MASIE AND NTUTUMU MANGUE, SECRETARY OF STATE IN PRESIDENCY (BROTHER FORMER VICE PRESIDENT) AND POSSIBLY NOBERTO NSUE MICHA, VICE MINISTER OF POPULAR CONSTRUCTION (AND FORMERLY IN SECURITY) WERE IMPLICATED AND REMOVED FROM OFFICE. IN ADDITION MARTINEZ NZO BIKIE, AMILATO BOYHOOD FRIEND OF PRESIDENT MACIA WAS REMOVED AS MINISTER OF PEOPLES BUSINESS AND MARKET, FOR HAVING DIVERTED CHINESE FURNISHED GOODS FOR HIS BENEFIT. FRENCH CHARGE LANDEMARD CONFIRMED THESE CHANGES.

6. LANDEMARD CLAIMS THAT LOWER LEVEL FUNCTIONARIES WERE KEEPING PEOPLE FROM SEEING PRESIDENT. HE SIGHTED EXAMPLE OF TWO OFFICIALS FROM EC BRUSSELS WHO HAD COME MALABO MARCH 11 TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION

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MENTATION LOME CONVENTION. THEY WERE INFORMED THEY SHOULD WAIT UNTIL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY ARRIVED FROM BATA TO DISCUSS MATTER. ALTHOUGH LANDEMARD HAD LEARNED THROUGH DROGAGE (FRENCH COMPANY) THAT PRESIDENT PERSONALLY WISHED SEE VISITORS. LANDEMARD FELT RUSSIAN MIGHT BE UNDUELY INFLUENCING LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS.

7. GONZOLES BELIEVES CUBANS WERE AT BOTTOM PRESENT UNREST. HE SIGHTED RECENT CONVERSATION DURING MARCH 5 CELEBRATION WITH HIS

CURRENT CUBAN CHARGE OSWALDO TRIANO MINCHIN, WHO CLAIMED CUBANS WERE PREPARING ASSIST IN LIBERATION REMAINING WHITE SOUTHERN AFRICAN TERRITORIES. HE ALSO CLAIMED RAFAEL BENITEZ FORMER FIRST SECRETARY HAS BEEN RECALLED CUBA TO BECOME AMBASSADOR IN ONE OF 14 NEW AFRICAN EMBASSIES BEING OPENED.

8. IN MARCH 16 CONVERSATION D. CAPELLE (FRENCH) PILOT COMPANY FORESTAL RIO MUNI (CFRM) PLANE TOLD CONSUL MITHOEFER THAT HE HAD BEEN GROUNDED BATA UNTIL MARCH 13 DUE RUMORED COUP. HE ADDED PATRICK SCHWARTZ, LOCAL MANAGER CFRM HAD SEEN PRESIDENT MARCH 8 OR 9 AND PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED PLEASURE RECENT AMBASSADORIAL VISIT. HE HAD BROUGHT SAMPLES SANTIAGO SIGNATURE AND CFRM THOUGHT WHOLE PAPER MUST BE HOAX. HE FURNISHED COPY PAPER (WHICH UNSIGNED) AND GIVEN TEXT PNG TELEGRAM, WHICH HE INDICATED WOULD ATTEMPT DISCREATLY DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT.

9. COMMENT: WHILE IT DIFFICULT CUT THROUGH LAYERS OF INTRIGUE AND PARANOIA IT BECOMING EVIDENT THAT SANTIAGO ACTING ON HIS OWN OR PERHAPS CONCERT WITH AUGUSTIN AND OTHERS MAY HAVE SET UP THIS WHOLE FIASCO IN ORDER DISCREDIT U.S. REPRESENTATIVE. POSSIBILITY ALSO EXISTS THAT MY BEING "LOST IN BUSH" WILL BE USED AS A PRE-TEXT FOR BLAIMING ABORTIVE "COUP" ON ME AND CIA. SANTIAGO MAY CLAIM ONLY ASTUTE EFFORT BY HIM AND HIS DENUNCIATION OF ME AT BORDER BY LETTER DATED MARCH 9 AND WRITTEN IN EBEBIYIN SAVE COUNTRY AND PRESIDENT FROM BEING SUBVERTED BY CIA AND YOURS TRULY. WHILE THIS ADMITTEDLY PRETTY HEADY STUFF NOTHING DEALING WITH FEROCIOUS FANG CAN BE DISMISSED OUT OF HAND. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, ATTEMPT FOLLOW UNFOLDING E.G. DRAMA AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE FROM OUR CAMEROONIAN PERCH.
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